



King County Executive
Ron Sims

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applications:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

A. BACKGROUND

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:** Update to the Sensitive Areas Code
2. **Name of applicant:** King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES)
3. **Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

Jeffrey Stern
Department of Development and Environmental Services
3600 - 136th Place SE
Bellevue, WA 98006
(206) 296-7229
4. **Date checklist prepared:** April 21, 1998
5. **Agency requesting checklist:** Department of Development and Environmental Services
6. **Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):** Adoption by Council during the 1998 legislative session
7. **Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.** There will probably be changes to some of these same code sections in response to the endangered species listing of chinook salmon in Puget Sound.
8. **List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.** This SEPA checklist provides a non-project environmental review of the Sensitive Areas Code Update. Future proposals on properties in unincorporated King County will be subject to the requirements of the Sensitive Areas Code and project review under SEPA. Whether or not environmental impacts related to future proposals and the implementation of the sensitive areas regulations on those future projects are considered significant will be determined on a case-by-case basis at the time of SEPA review of those proposals.
9. **Do you know whether applications are pending for government approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.** No.
10. **List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.** Adoption by the King County Council of the proposed ordinance package and approval of the implementing administrative rules under King County rule making authority (K.C.C. Chapter 2.98) by the Department of Development and Environmental Services.
11. **Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.** The proposal revises King County's regulations for allowable activities in and alterations to designated sensitive areas. These regulations are contained in K.C.C. 21A.24 and 21A.06. Other regulations in King County Code are also updated to be consistent with and implement the changes to the sensitive area code. Those additional changes are made to K.C.C. Titles 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, and 27A. The proposed changes are consistent with the state Growth Management Act requirements to protect critical areas and the King County Comprehensive Plan.
12. **Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of our proposed project, including a street address, if any, and**

section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. The proposal is a non-project action that applies to all of unincorporated King County.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the regulations contained in the proposal will apply to sites which contain all of these physical features.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal intends to regulate activities on slopes that exceed 40 percent.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification as agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The regulations will apply to sites which contain all of these soil types including the prime farmland designated by the County as the Agricultural Production District.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal intends to regulate activities on all areas with surface indications or a history of unstable soils.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal intends to regulate activities on all areas with highly erosive soils.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does not apply.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains King County's proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to

sensitive areas and from hazard areas resulting from activities and developments on or next to these areas.

2. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities, if known.

Does not apply.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Does not apply.

3. **Water**

- a. Surface:

1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Does not apply.

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains King County's regulations for any activities on sites containing water features such as streams, wetlands, lakes and their floodplains.

3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains King County's regulations which specify those alterations where any filling of surface waters or wetlands would be allowed.

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains King County's regulations which specify what alteration would be allowed in streams. Any diversion requests would have to meet those requirements.

5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains King County's regulations which specify what alterations are allowed within the 100-year floodplain.

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Does not apply.

b. Ground:

1. Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

Does not apply.

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any, (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (including quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe:

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains King County's regulations for buffers around surface waters which should help keep waste materials from entering those waters.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

The proposal contains the County's regulations to protect sensitive areas from impacts from development including those from surface or stormwater runoff to sensitive areas and mitigation requirements if such impacts do occur from any particular activity or project. The proposal also includes the County's regulations to protect hazard areas from alterations which could create or increase a hazard. This includes changes to surface, ground or runoff flows that could affect a hazard area.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- ☐ shrubs
- ☐ grass
- ☐ pasture
- ☐ crop or grain
- ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup,
 bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- ☐ other types of vegetation (landscaping)

Does not apply. All of these vegetation types are found in King County

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains the County's regulations that limit vegetation removal in sensitive areas and buffers around those areas.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are several threatened and endangered species in unincorporated King County. Most of these species can be found in sensitive areas protected by these regulations.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Because this is a non-project action, this does not apply. It should be noted that the proposal contains the County's regulations that require the preservation of the existing vegetation in sensitive areas and buffers around those areas. The proposal also contains the County's requirements to restore any damaged vegetation and replace any lost habitat when some permanent alteration to that vegetation may be allowed under the code.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawks, heron, eagle, songbirds, other.
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
 rodents, coyotes
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish,
 other.

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

There are several threatened and endangered species in unincorporated King County. Most of these species use the sensitive areas protected by these regulations during some life stage.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Some portions of King County are known migration routes.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

The proposal contains the County's regulations to protect sensitive areas and in doing so preserves habitats that are important to numerous species of wildlife. Particularly in urban areas, these habitats would not necessarily survive without these regulations.

6. **Energy and Natural Resources**

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Does not apply.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

7. **Environmental Health**

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Does not apply.

- b. Noise

- 1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Does not apply.

- 2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Does not apply.

- 3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Indirectly, the County's requirements to leave sensitive areas undeveloped and in native vegetation will contribute to the reduction and control of noise impacts from associated development. The extent of such control will be site specific.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties.
Does not apply.
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.
Does not apply.
- c. Describe any structures on the sites.
Does not apply.
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?
Does not apply.
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
Does not apply.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
Does not apply.
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Does not apply.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
Does not apply.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
Does not apply.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
Does not apply.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.
Does not apply.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.
Does not apply.

9. **Housing**

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income building.

Does not apply.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

10. **Aesthetics**

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.
Indirectly, the County's requirements to leave sensitive areas undeveloped and in native vegetation will contribute to the reduction and control of aesthetic impacts from associated development. The extent of such control will be site specific.

11. **Light and Glare**

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does not apply.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply.

- c. What existing off-site source of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does not apply.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.

Indirectly, the County's requirements to leave sensitive areas undeveloped and in native vegetation will contribute to the reduction and control of light and glare impacts from associated development. The extent of such control will be site specific.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Does not apply.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.

Indirectly, the County's requirements to leave sensitive areas undeveloped and in native vegetation will contribute to the reduction and control of impacts on recreational opportunities by providing additional passive recreation opportunities and locations for some active recreational opportunities that are consistent with the code.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any.

Does not apply.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Does not apply.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does not apply.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does not apply.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to the existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
- Does not apply.
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
- Does not apply.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
- Does not apply.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.
- Does not apply.

15. **Public Services**

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so generally describe.
- Does not apply.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
- Does not apply.

16. **Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site; electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
- Does not apply.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
- Does not apply.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____